

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM TAYLOR  
WATSON, III

**HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 12, 2011*

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, recently my District lost one of the most impressive men I have ever known.

William Taylor Watson, III passed away on July 19, 2011. I knew Bill personally for many years and considered him a good friend.

Born in Nashville and educated at Vanderbilt University, Bill's career as a businessman spanned 64 years and included many great accomplishments.

He was a leader and expert in finances, once overseeing some of the largest financial portfolios in the Nation.

Bill was also an active member of several churches, and I know his faith in God played a prominent role in everything he did.

Bill always said, despite his impressive life and great career successes, that his family was his greatest joy. I extend my condolences to his wife, Mary; daughter, Mary Pierson Gibson; sons, William T. Watson, IV and George Fitch Watson; and brother, Robert Watson. I know they will miss Bill greatly.

I have nothing but the greatest respect for any person who serves in the military, especially during a time of war. We use the word hero way too often these days, but Bill was truly an American hero.

Following his time at Midshipman's School at Northwestern University, where he graduated with high honors, Bill had his pick of top positions in the Military. He could have chosen a career in the safety of Washington, D.C., working inside the Navy Department; instead, he chose the most dangerous job in the military—Underwater Demolition Team frogman, the predecessor to the Navy Seals.

Bill's son, Bill Watson IV, recently contacted me to share this story as it was told in an editorial written about is father and published in the June 1, 1944, edition of *The Sewanee Purple*.

Mr. Speaker, this piece, which is reprinted below, shows the true character of Bill Watson better than anything I could express, and I bring it to the attention of my Colleagues and other Readers of the Record.

[From the *Sewanee Purple*, Jun. 1, 1944]

EDITORIAL

... the greater therefore should our  
courage be.—Henry V

On May 10th, a class of Midshipmen graduated from Northwestern University Midshipman School. Its members were commissioned Ensigns in the United States Naval Reserve. William Taylor Watson, III, of Nashville, graduated fifth in that class of fourteen hundred. He had attended Vanderbilt University, and was stationed at Sewanee in the V-12 Unit from July until November last year. To those who knew him, it was not surprising that he led his class.

At the time of his graduation, Admiral King had asked the Northwestern Midshipman School for a newly commissioned Ensign to take abroad his flagship, in order to see the calibre of the men the Midshipman School was turning out. There was a post in Washington, in the Navy Department, which Northwestern was to fill—and it would take a good officer to fill it. Both of those assignments were offered to Billy Watson. He

turned them both down. He was given his choice of any assignment he wanted on active duty.

He chose what the Navy terms "demolition". Only volunteers are accepted for this work. It is a dirty job. The men in demolition ride small rubber rafts, in through the surf to the beaches, where an amphibious attack is to be made. A hundred yards from shore, the demolition men start to swim. They search the beaches, locating mines, clearing paths through them, and destroying any explosives which would interfere with a landing. Then they swim back to their little rubber rafts, and paddle away—if they can.

The choice that Watson made of course caused a good bit of comment. We heard one emptyheaded fool laugh at it; to this person it seemed a ludicrous choice!

There was a bright red haze in front of us for a long time afterwards. Speech came very hard, for there was no fitting answer to that sort of statement. The whole vital issue of the war seemed to be tied up in that little incident. On the one hand, was a man who had the same high ideal that kept the Spitfires flying in the battle of Britain—that kept the Russian line together before Moscow—that pervaded—and kept the courage up—in the soul shattering defeat in the South Pacific Withdrawals.

On the other hand—well—you name it. It doesn't print very well.

To William Watson, we can say only a part of what we feel by giving him a deeply respectful and admiring salute—for his nobility, his courage, and his superb action in accepting his individual responsibility.

#### AMERICA'S STRENGTH THROUGH DIVERSITY

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 12, 2011*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend of the Tenth Anniversary remembrances of the attacks of September 11th, I saw the strength and diversity of the people across the Midlands of South Carolina which is underestimated by our evil enemies.

The diversity of America by heritage, race, religion, gender, and politics makes America strong.

At the request of President Mary Peña, I spoke to the Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia citing the special contribution of Filipino-Americans for over 100 years in defense of America into the Global War on Terrorism.

For our family, this September 11th began with participation in the Memorial Service sponsored by the West Metro Rotary Club, West Metro Chamber of Commerce, Lexington School District Two, and Pine Press Printers at the West Columbia River Walk Amphitheater. The passionate patriot Joe Pinner presided over tributes to our military, military families, and first responders highlighted by Sheriff James Metts and Irmo Fire Chief Mike Sonefeld.

Proof of the resolve of the New Greatest Generation was the Change of Command Ceremony of the Headquarters Support Company of Sumter's 351st Aviation Support Battalion. Before a fully staffed complement of all volunteers, Cpt. Julian D. Wilson relinquished command to Cpt. Michael W. Jones. Wilson had enlisted in the S.C. Army National Guard

in December 2001 in the tradition of service as the namesake of Marine Major Julian D. Dusenbury who was awarded the Navy Cross for his successful capture of Shuni Castle on Okinawa in April 1945. Both Captains are symbols of military families with Cpt. Jones supported by his wife Terry and their six children, Michael, Jr., Megan, Nathaniel, Summer, Shan, and Brooke and Cpt. Wilson encouraged by his wife Joy and son Julian, Jr.

As a 31-year veteran of the Army Reserves and the S.C. Army National Guard, I have never been prouder of their committed members and their capabilities for domestic and overseas service. Due to the success of America's military more countries today have been liberated from totalitarianism in the history of the world living in freedom and democracy from Estonia to Thailand and South Korea to Bulgaria.

Due to the vision of Dan Hennigan, a 9/11 First Responders Remembrance Memorial featuring two New York World Trade Center steel beams were unveiled at the base of the State House in front of the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center with Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin and Governor Nikki Haley.

At the Remembrance, it was very appropriate on the front row of special guests were Hampton and Jane Caughman, proud parents of SPC Thomas W. Caughman who was killed June 9, 2004, Iraq. SPC Caughman was mature beyond his age concluding his letters with the adage, "Freedom is not free." He understood we were in a long war to protect American families at home.

The weekend concluded with a moving Service of Remembrance at Saxe Gotha Presbyterian Church named in recognition of the community's original German Swiss farming settlers. Heartfelt leadership was provided by pastors Dr. Jim Glatz, Dr. Helen Harrison Coker, and Dr. Bill Johnston. Dr. Glatz recounted the extraordinary heroism of Todd Beamer on Flight 93. After reciting together The Lord's Prayer with air phone operators, Beamer stated to his comrades the immortal "Let's Roll," which successfully stopped the jihadists from their murderous destruction of the U.S. Capitol Building. This was the first successful counterattack in the Global War on Terrorism. The service was enhanced by a Color Guard of the Lexington Police Department along with the Lexington County Choral Society and the Lake Murray Symphony Orchestra.

The positive message of Dr. Glatz was clear that the American people will prevail with faith, hope, and love.

In conclusion, God Bless Our Troops, and we will never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11

**HON. LUCILE ROYBAL-ALLARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 12, 2011*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, as Congress marks the 10 year anniversary of the September 11th attacks, I rise to mourn the loss of the thousands of innocents who perished and to honor the selflessness of those who sacrificed so much to protect us, both on that day and in the decade since.